

DRUGS.

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WASHINGTON, AUG. 14, REUTER - LEFTIST GUERRILLAS IN LATIN AMERICA ARE PROBABLY SMUGGLING DRUGS INTO THE UNITED STATES TO FINANCE ACTIVITIES DEDICATED TO THE OVERTHROW OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, SENATOR JAMES EASTLAND SAID TODAY. SENATOR EASTLAND (DEMOCRAT, MISSISSIPPI) CHAIRMAN OF SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY, SAID THIS WAS JUST ONE WAY IN WHICH THE DRUG PROBLEM WAS THREATENING THE UNITED STATES.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE TODAY BEGAN A SERIES OF HEARINGS ON INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC AND ITS IMPACT ON U.S. SECURITY.

PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE POINTS TOWARD THE PROBABILITY THAT LEFTIST ELEMENTS AND LEFTIST GUERRILLAS IN LATIN AMERICAN HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING COCAINE AND OTHER DRUGS INTO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THEIR (NEW LEFT RADICAL) ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

GENERAL LEWIS WALT, FORMER ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, SAID U.S. ALLIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WERE DOING ALL THEY COULD TO STEM THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFIC.

GENERAL WALT, WHO RETIRED FROM THE MARINE CORPS 18 MONTHS AGO, UNDERTOOK A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG PROBLEM FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE PRINCIPAL FACTOR IN THE ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC SITUATION WAS NOT CORRUPTION AMONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BUT THE LACK OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY OR CONTROL IN NORTHERN BURMA, THE HEARTLAND OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN DRUG SITUATION, HE SAID.

MR. JOHN INGERSOLL, DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. BUREAU OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, SAID POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE DRUG TRADE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WERE SO COMPLEX HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF ILLICIT OPIUM TRAFFIC THERE.

BUT HE SAID THE DESTRUCTION OF 26 TONS OF RAW OPIUM IN THAILAND EARLIER THIS YEAR MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ORGANISED OPIUM TRAFFICKING BY IRREGULAR MILITARY FORCES IN THE SO-CALLED GOLDEN TRIANGLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OPIUM WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE EFFORTS AND THE GOOD FAITH OF THE THAI AUTHORITIES TO REVERSE A TRADITION OF TWO DECADES, HE SAID.

Comment: Maury has a copy.